

Dear Members of Labor and Public Employees Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Di-zett Hamilton and I live in Bridgeport, Connecticut. I support Senate Bill No. 1178: *An Act Expanding Connecticut Paid Sick Days*.

I'm a single mother of 4 children. My dad, 84 years of age, with dementia, has been in my care for eight years. This is my family.

I'd like to say 3 out of 10 times I've had to miss work between my youngest and my oldest, due to some family incidents. My oldest child is 25 years of age, he was a football player in Middle School and fractured his collarbone, and I missed three days out of work due to that injury.

I feel we are already overworked and underpaid. Surgeons save lives but they get paid a fraction of what an athlete does. When a family member gets sick or hurt, life changes routines, and things get off track. The bills start to accumulate, and we get flustered, but we're only human!

I not only have to miss work, but also spending more on gas to get to the doctor, more so, having to spend more on medicine, and spending even more money at the grocery store for wellness food. No one's child is ever sick for just one day! That's even more money towards child care for the next day. This is nearly a day's pay within itself, that I have already missed from work. This was Point 3) of the paid sick day off that Includes all types of family structures and relationships which will allow workers to care for a child of any age, as well as their chosen family! would be such a great help. Regardless of these changes with illnesses, Our Rent, Cellphone, or utilities, these bills are never changing. The first priority is to pay the rent to secure our home, then one has to juggle the money and try to prioritize what other bills could be paid next. Paid sick leave would secure these priorities for our family. This is why I support Senate Bill 1178: *AN ACT EXPANDING CONNECTICUT PAID SICK DAYS* and need a paid sick days law that:

1. Cover all workers regardless of employer size or industry!
2. Eliminates the waiting period to take a paid sick day from 680 hours to immediately after you start working!
3. Include all types of family structures and relationships which will allow workers to care for a child of any age, as well as their chosen family! The bill would also allow you to take paid sick time to care for a family member who experiences family violence or sexual assault.
4. Increase the number of hours of paid sick time workers can accrue and use per year from 40 to 80 hours.
5. Protect against future pandemics by allowing paid sick time to be used when a worker's place of work or child's school/place of care is closed by public officials for a public health emergency!

Thank you for your time,
Di-zett Hamilton Bridgeport, CT